Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal



Climate change: The cost of inaction and the cost of adaptation

Author(s): European Environment Agency (EEA)

Year: 2007

Publisher: European Environment Agency (EEA) (Copenhagen, Denmark)

Abstract:

Significant changes in climate are already visible globally, and are expected to become more pronounced in the future. These will lead to wide ranging impacts on the natural and man-made environment across different sectors and regions, which in turn will lead to economic costs. These economic costs of climate change are often known as the 'costs of inaction' and are increasingly helping to inform the policy debate. It is also evident that even if emissions of greenhouse gases stop today, changes in climate will continue for many decades. Therefore, in addition to mitigation, it is essential to develop adequate adaptive responses (adaptation) as a means of moderating damages or realising opportunities associated with climate change. To allow a fully informed debate on adaptation, there is a need to consider the economic aspects of adaptation. Against this background, the EEA has prepared this report with the aim: to identify and highlight methodological issues and uncertainties of cost estimation; to review existing information on economic costs of climate change at a European level; to highlight the need for improved information on impacts of climate change and the need to monitor the effectiveness of adaptation strategies and actions; to facilitate information sharing among EEA member countries and learning from 'good practice'; to identify research needs. This report concentrates on a European policy perspective, considering a framework covering the full costs of climate change. The information on the economic costs of climate change impacts (if no further action is taken) provides a means to monitor and predict the changing state of the environment likely to be affected in Europe. -- Excerpted text.

Source: http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/technical report 2007 13/at download/file

Resource Description

Climate Scenario: M

specification of climate scenario (set of assumptions about future states related to climate)

Special Report on Emissions Scenarios (SRES)

Special Report on Emissions Scenarios (SRES) Scenario: SRES A1, SRES A2, SRES B1, SRES B2

Exposure: M

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Air Pollution, Ecosystem Changes, Extreme Weather Event, Food/Water Quality, Food/Water Security, Food/Water Security, Glacier/Snow Melt, Precipitation, Sea Level Rise, Temperature

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Air Pollution: Ozone

Extreme Weather Event: Drought, Flooding, Hurricanes/Cyclones, Landslides, Wildfires

Food/Water Quality: Other Water Quality Issue

Water Quality (other): Ocean acidification; Saltwater intrusion

Food/Water Security: Agricultural Productivity, Fisheries

Temperature: Extreme Cold, Extreme Heat, Fluctuations

Geographic Feature: N

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Arctic, Mountain, Ocean/Coastal, Urban, Other Geographical Feature

Other Geographical Feature: Forests

Geographic Location: M

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Non-United States: Europe

Health Co-Benefit/Co-Harm (Adaption/Mitigation):

■

specification of beneficial or harmful impacts to health resulting from efforts to reduce or cope with greenhouse gases

A focus of content

Health Impact: M

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Infectious Disease, Mental Health/Stress, Morbidity/Mortality, Respiratory Effect

Infectious Disease: Foodborne/Waterborne Disease, Vectorborne Disease

Foodborne/Waterborne Disease: General Foodborne/Waterborne Disease, Salmonellosis

Vectorborne Disease: Fly-borne Disease, General Vectorborne, Mosquito-borne Disease

Fly-borne Disease: Leishmaniasis

Mosquito-borne Disease: Malaria, West Nile Virus

Mental Health Effect/Stress: Mood Disorder, Stress Disorder

Respiratory Effect: Upper Respiratory Allergy, Other Respiratory Effect

Respiratory Condition (other): Allergic rhinitis

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation, Mitigation

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Model/Methodology: ™

type of model used or methodology development is a focus of resource

Cost/Economic, Exposure Change Prediction, Methodology

Resource Type: **№**

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article, Review

Resilience: M

capacity of an individual, community, or institution to dynamically and effectively respond or adapt to shifting climate impact circumstances while continuing to function

A focus of content

Socioeconomic Scenario: SES scenarios

Timescale: M

time period studied

Long-Term (>50 years)

Vulnerability/Impact Assessment: ■

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content